



7869 Kingswood Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Phone: 916.961.7891

Fax: 916.961.5034

Website: school.StMarksLutheran.com

Dear St. Mark's Families,

On Friday, July 17th, Governor Newsom released a mandate that all schools (public & private) which reside within a county of California on the COVID-19 watchlist, must begin the year with distance learning. Since then, our church and school administration, our Board of Child Discipleship (BCD), and others offering their services have looked into the next steps that St. Mark's Lutheran School can take from a respectful and God-pleasing perspective.

On Wednesday, July 22nd, the BCD voted unanimously to start our school year through distance learning with the intention of returning to the classroom as soon as possible. In order to return to the classroom, Sacramento County needs to be off the COVID-19 watchlist for fourteen consecutive days.

Over the summer, many of our families filled out a survey which allowed feedback to be given about last year's distance learning experiences. We have heard your feedback and are working on making changes to enhance student learning. We also are working on different ways to create social interaction opportunities between the students and teachers as well as ways teachers can assist with homework as needed. The finalized detailed plans for distance learning and social opportunities will be sent out in the near future.

In addition, Mrs. Julie Dushane has resigned from her position as Junior Kindergarten (JrK) teacher due to personal circumstances which are unrelated to COVID-19. St. Mark's respects Mrs. Dushane's privacy, and we will continue to pray for her and her family. Due to the short notice and difficulty of distance learning with very young students, the BCD has unanimously agreed to suspend the JrK program for the time being. Until we are able to reopen feasibly, St. Mark's is committed to looking for other opportunities for our JrK students to remain connected to our school.

As always, if you need financial assistance to remain at St. Mark's Lutheran School, please do not hesitate to contact us to make arrangements. Since these are difficult times, we are willing to work with your family. Please contact our office to make an appointment.

Before decisions were made by our BCD, we were reminded of God's presence. We read Psalm 46:1-3 which states, *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."* May we continue to trust in God to be our refuge and strength during these difficult times.

Rooted In Jesus Christ,

St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School Administration
& The Board of Child Discipleship